Alchemilla in Edinburgh/Lothians

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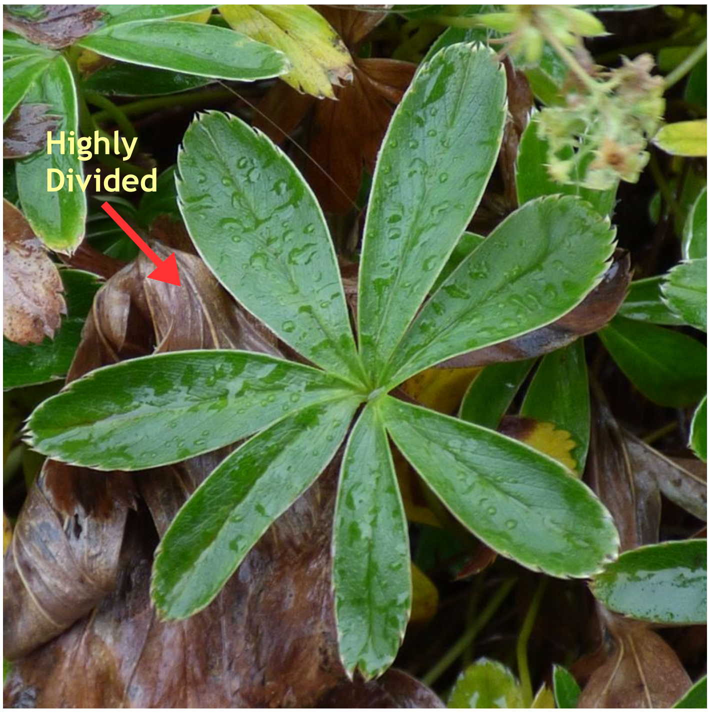
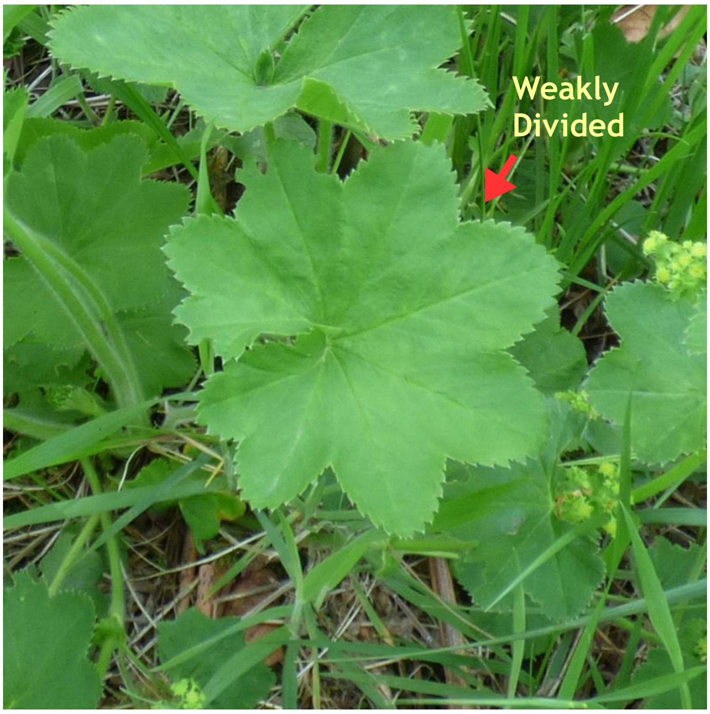
This is a visual form of the Alchemilla key in Stace 3 (p263). Keying Alchemilla is not ideal, and a BSBI book will come out in due course that may use a different approach.

(Most of the photos are my own, supplemented with a few from the web marked ‘WebPics’ taken from luopioistenkasvisto.fi or Mark Lynes’ web items.)

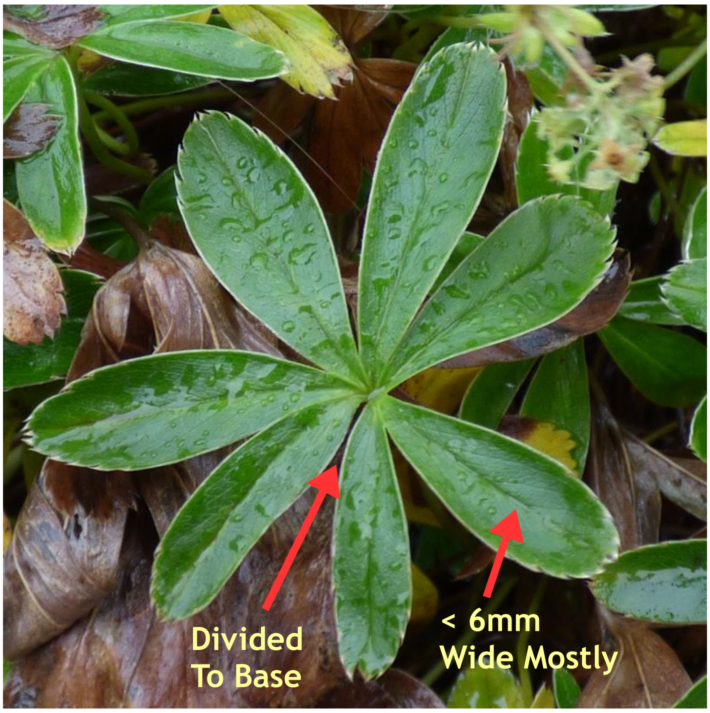
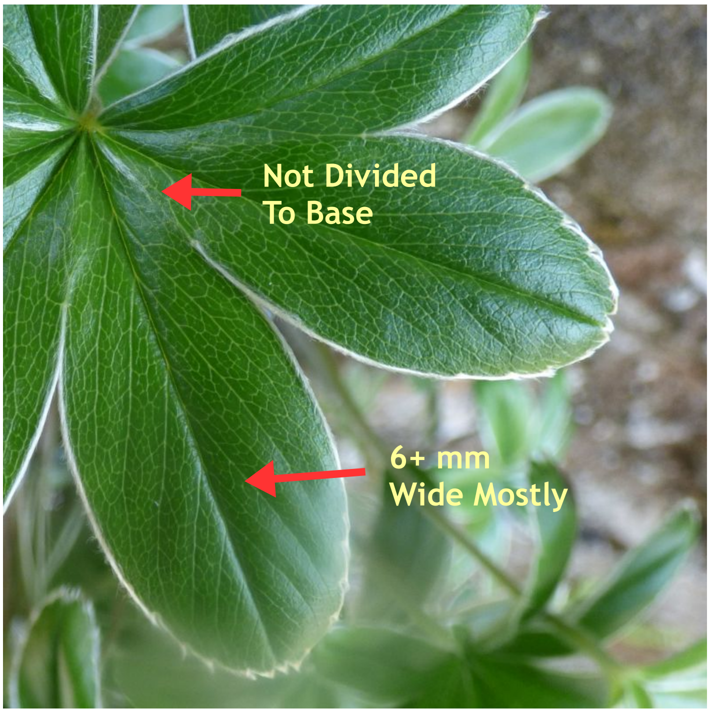
In Edinburgh/Lothians we have the following Ladies Mantles in order of frequency:-

A. mollis	Garden LM	Widespread
A. glabra	Smooth LM	Common, particularly W of bypass
A. xanthochlora	Pale LM	Common, particularly W of bypass
A. filicaulis ssp vestita	Hairy LM	Met from time to time
A. filicaulis ssp filicaulis	Slender LM	Rare
A. conjuncta	Silver LM	Occasional escapee
A. alpina	Alpine LM	Occasional escapee
A. glaucescens	Silky LM	Rare escape
A. <unknown>		An escapee near my home not in the books, not included in this key.
A. tytthantha	Crimean KM	Peebleshire hills and occasional escape in Glasgow
A. acutiloba	Starry LM	Single escape Glasgow
A. micans	Shining LM	Single escape Glasgow
A. glomerulans	Clustered LM	Occasional in Peebleshire hills
A. wichurae	Rock LM	Occasional in Peebleshire hills

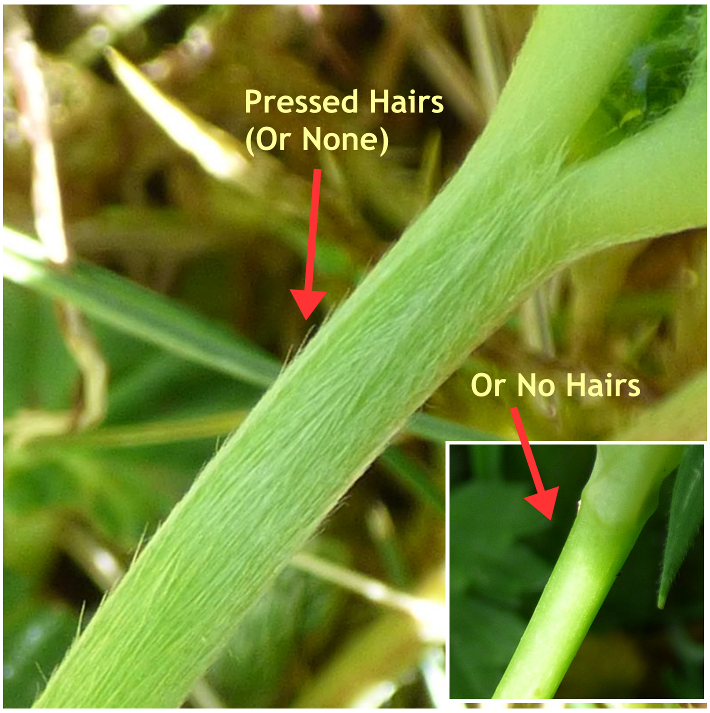
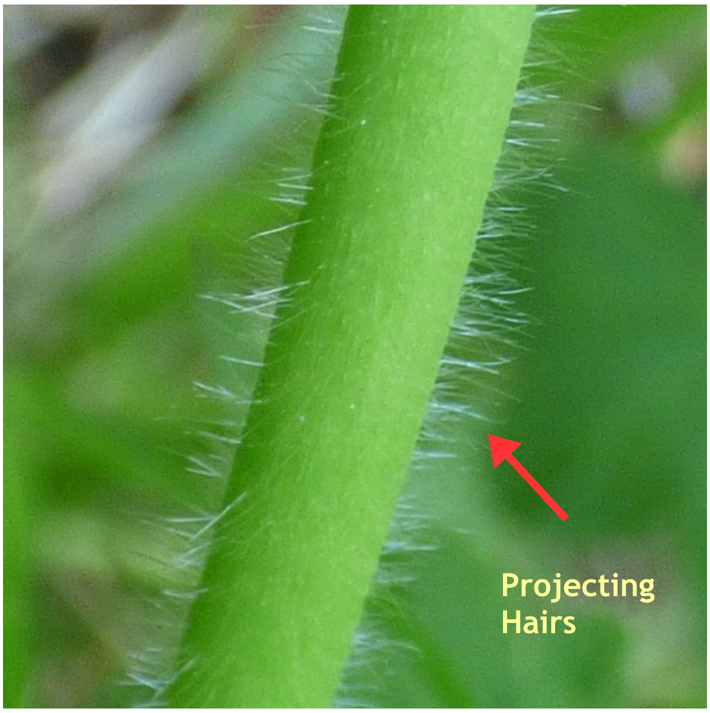
1. Leaf Division into Lobes

Leaves highly divided into lobes (> 50% to centre) -> **2**	Leaves weakly divided into lobes (<50% to centre) -> **3**
 	

2. Divided Fully to Centre?

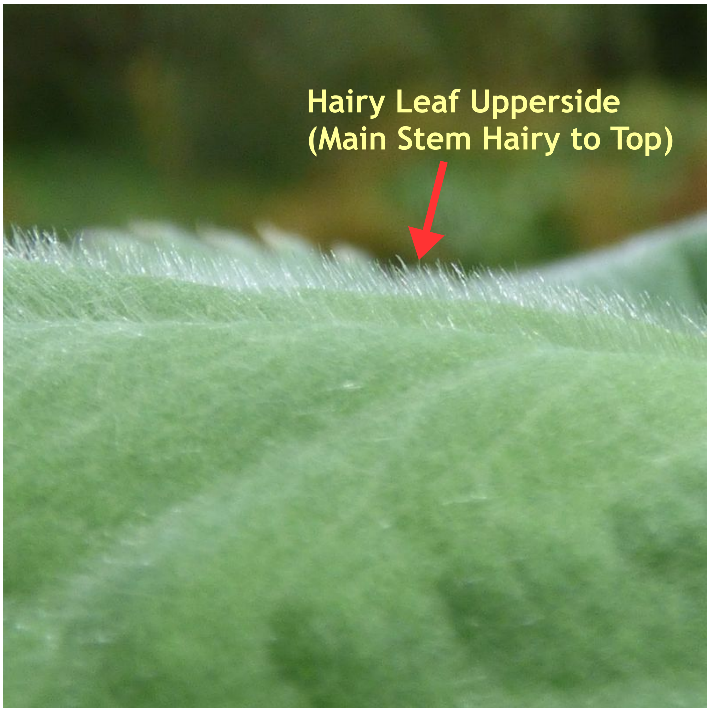
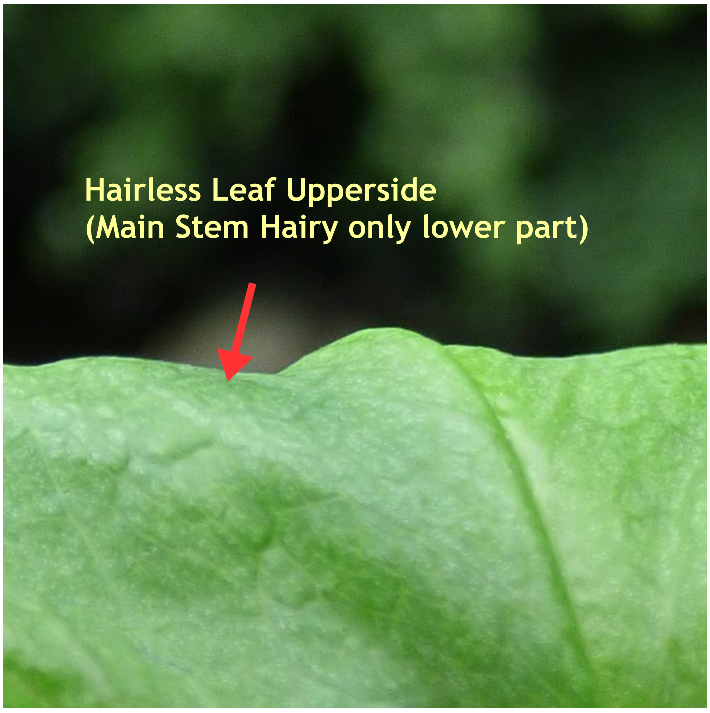
Divided fully to centre; lobes <6mm wide mostly -> A. alpina (**Alpine L. M.**)	Divided not fully to base; lobes 6+ mm wide mostly -> A. conjuncta (**Silver L. M.**)
	

3. Stem Hairs

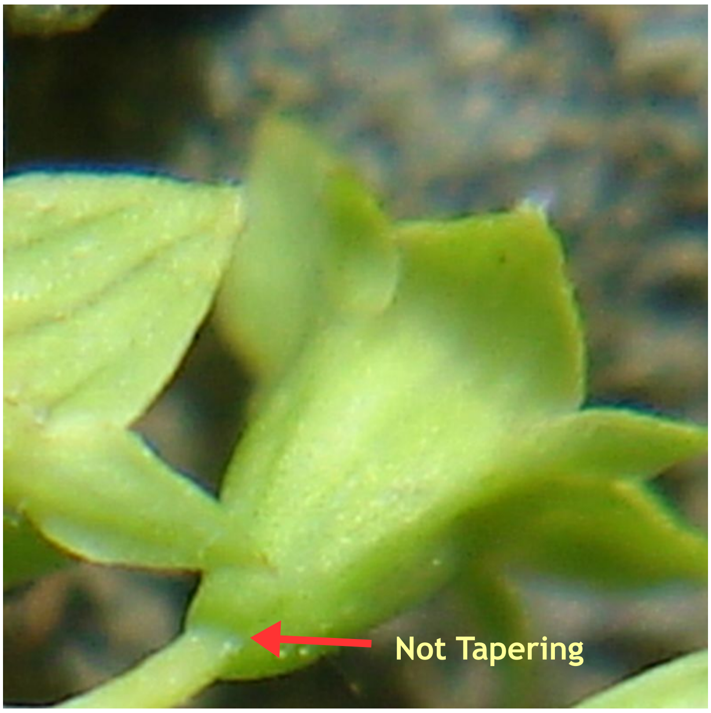
Main stems and leaf stems with pressed hairs or unhairy -> 4	Main stems and leaf stems with projecting hairs (or curling down) -> 7
	

4. Hairiness

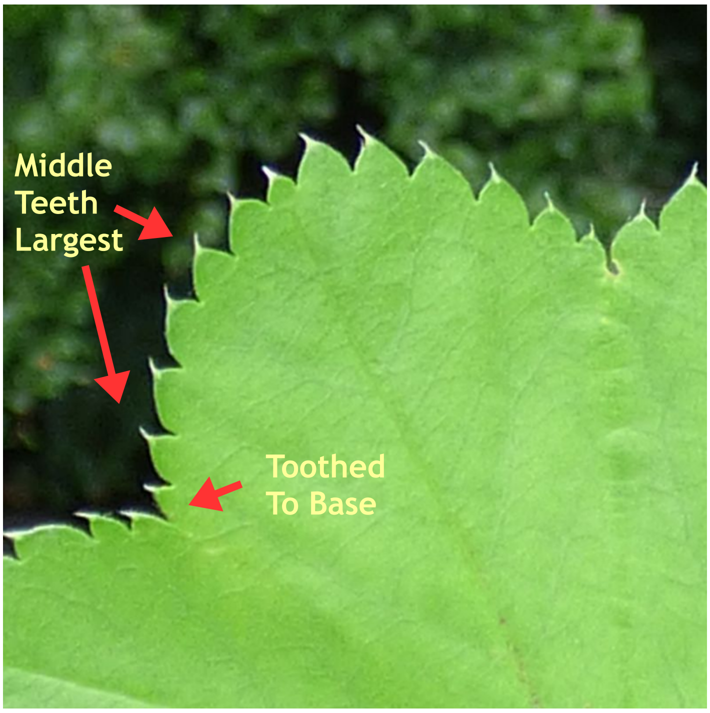
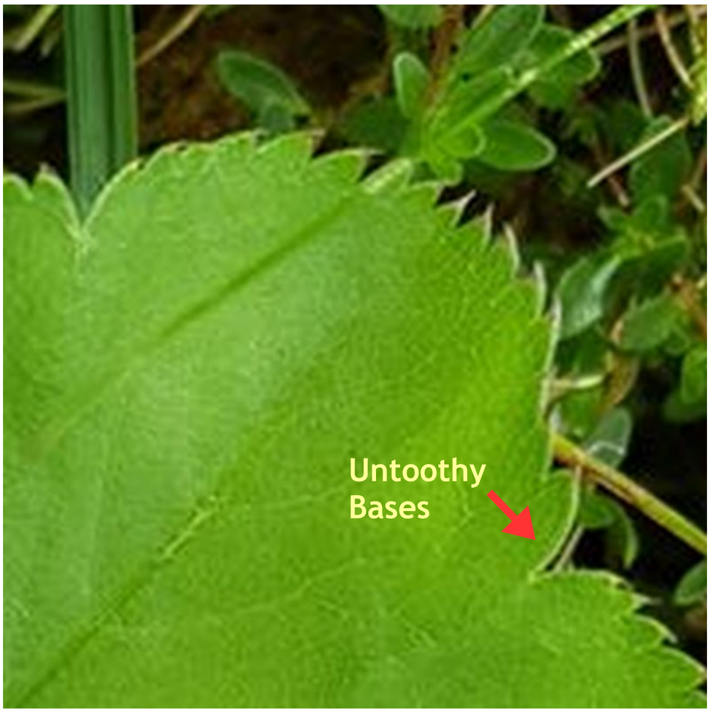
* Bend the leaf over your finger and view with a glancing view to view the hairs

Leaf uppersides hairy, main stems hairy all the way to top (incl. start of flower stems) -> 5	Leaf uppersides hairless, main stems hairy only in lower part -> 6
	 Hairless Leaf Upperside (Main Stem Hairy only lower part)

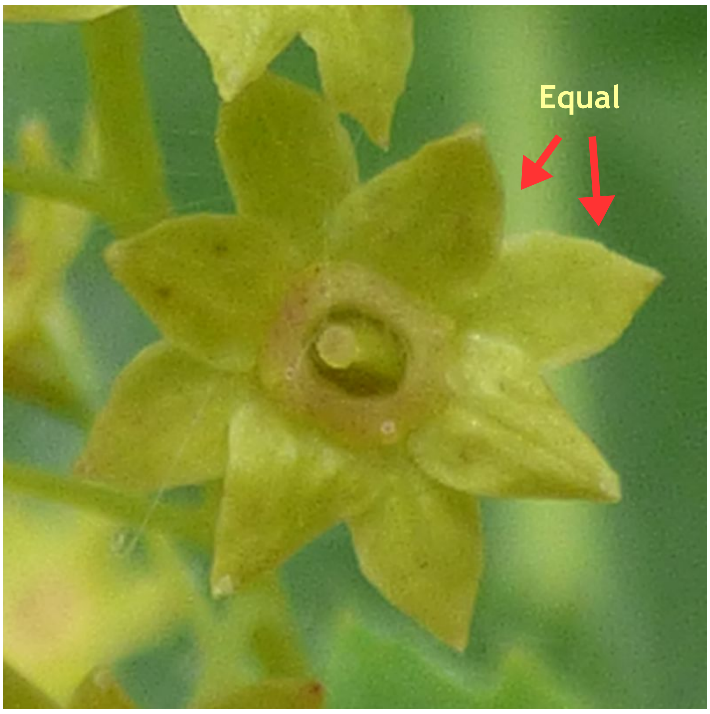
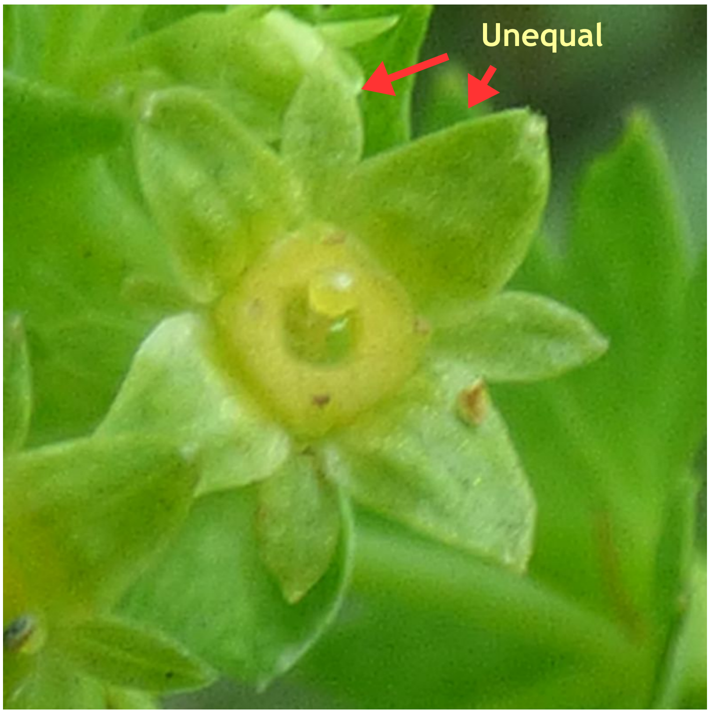
5. Hypanthium Base Shape

Hypanthium tapered at base -> A. micrans (**Shining L. M.**)	Hypanthium untapered at base -> A. golmerulans (**Clustered L. M.**) (This photo used from a different species)
PHOTO ! As picture to side but base tapering	

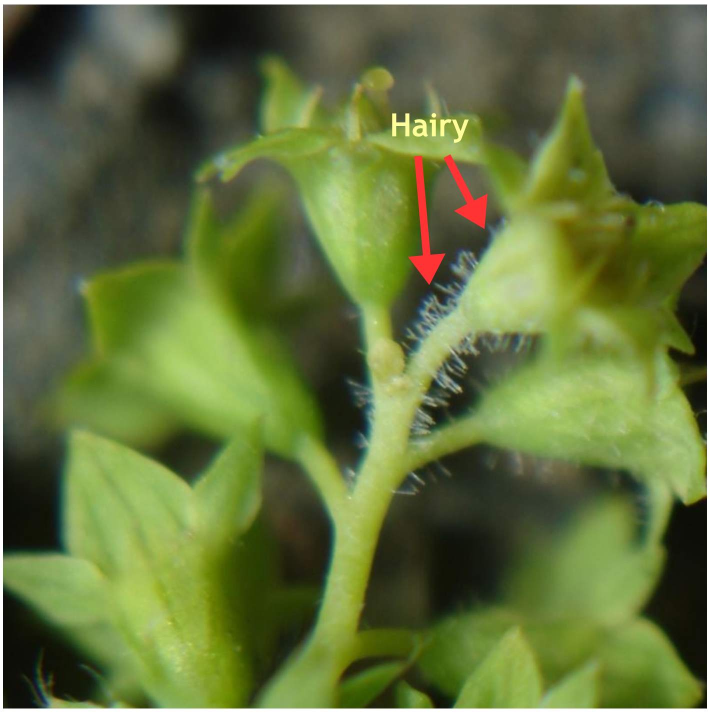
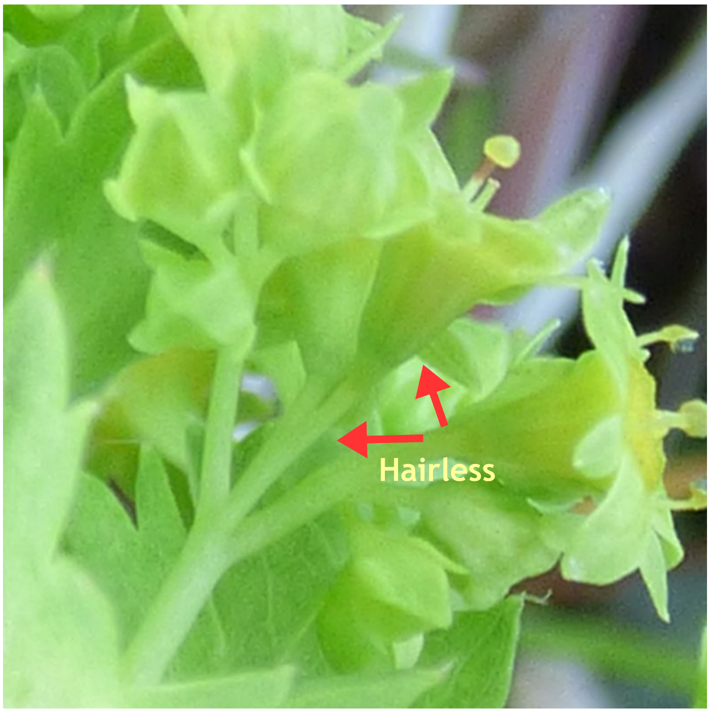
6. Toothing

Leaf gaps toothed to base; middle side-teeth noticeably larger. -> A. glabra (**Smooth L. M.**)	Leaf gaps toothless at bases; all teeth apx equal -> A. wichurae (**Rock L. M.**) WebPic.
	

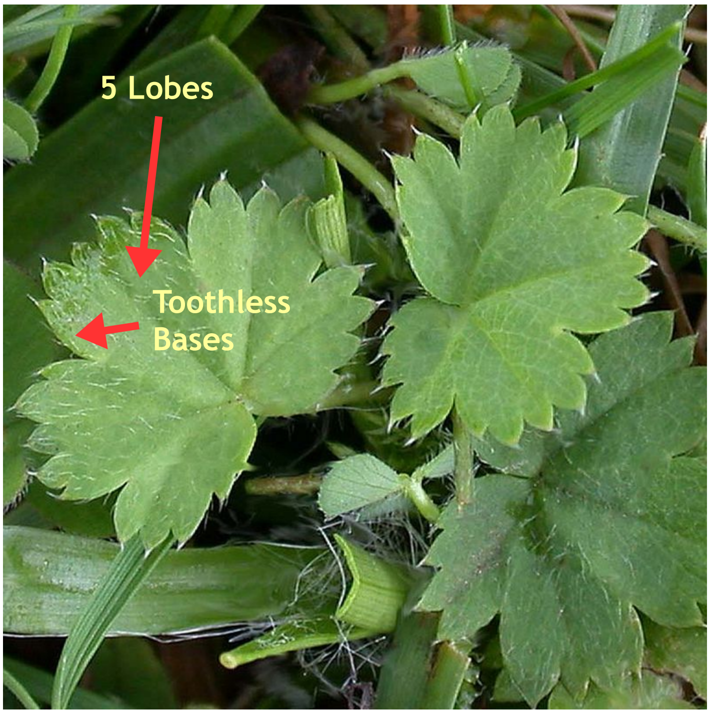
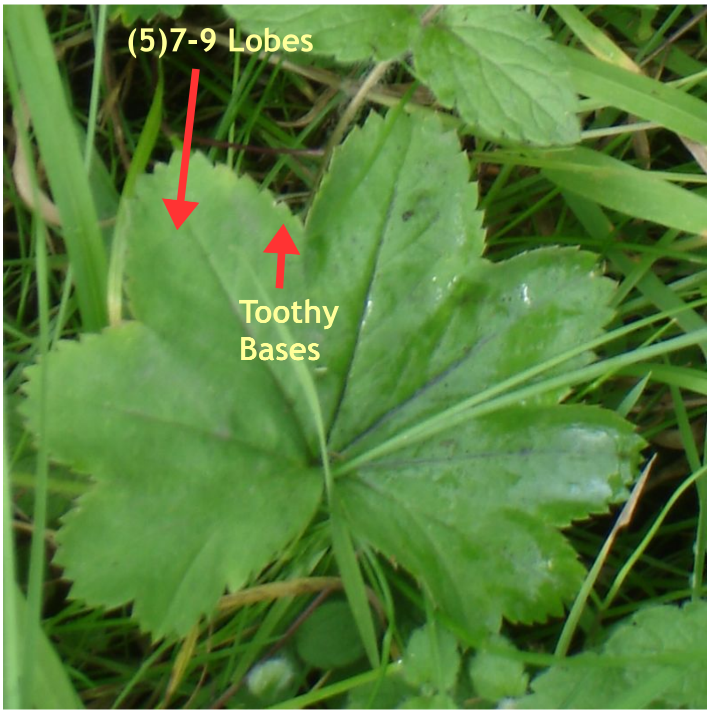
7. Calyx v Epicalyx

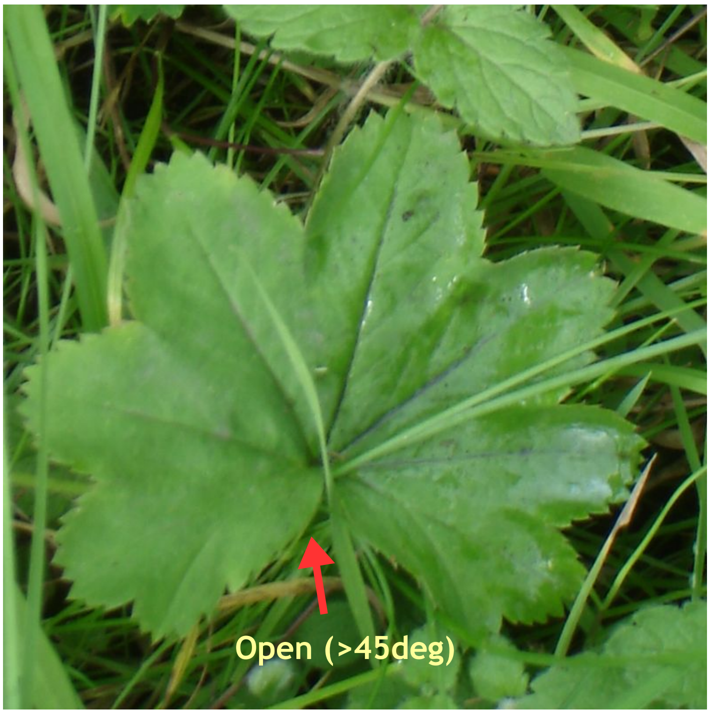
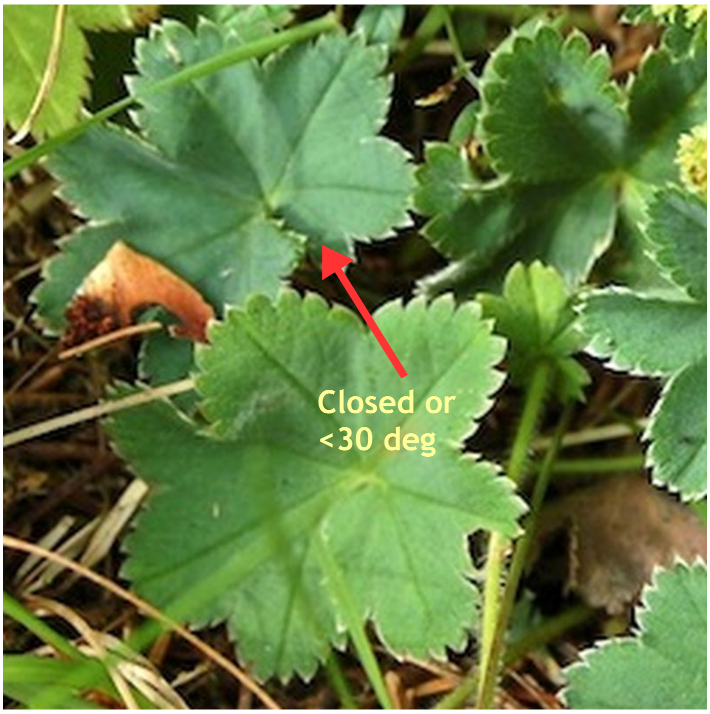
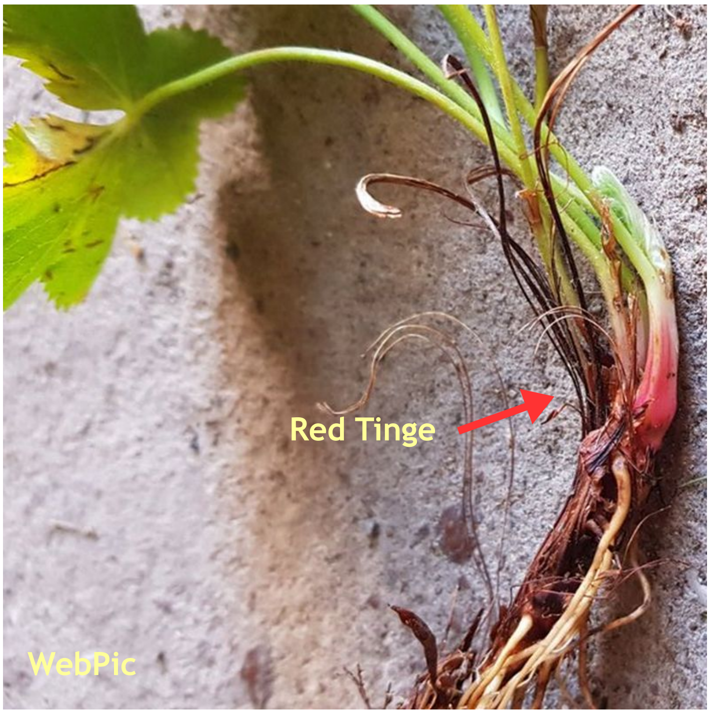
Below flower eight-form parts all one size; hypanthium much shorter than mature fruit -> A. mollis (**Soft/Garden L. M.**)	Below flower eight-form parts in two sizes; hypanthium as long as mature fruit -> 8
	

8. Hairyness of Pedicel/Hypanthium

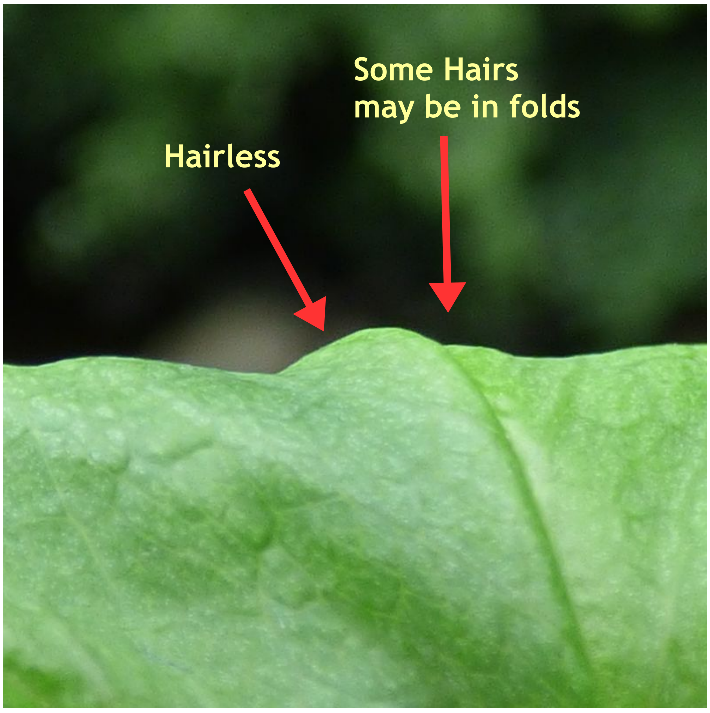
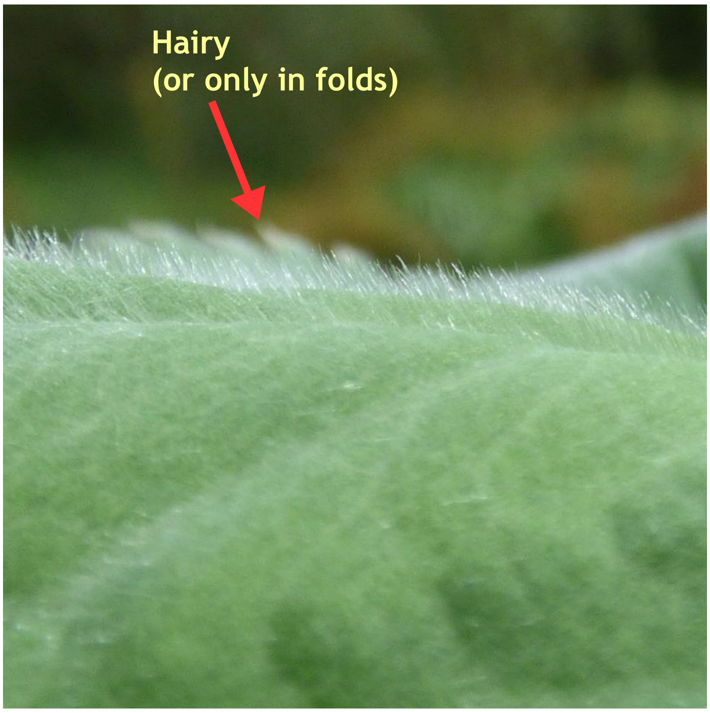
Small stalks to individual flowers and the flower bases both hairy, sometimes sparsely. -> 9	Small stalks to individual flowers hairless; flower bases usually so. -> 11
	

9. Lobe Count

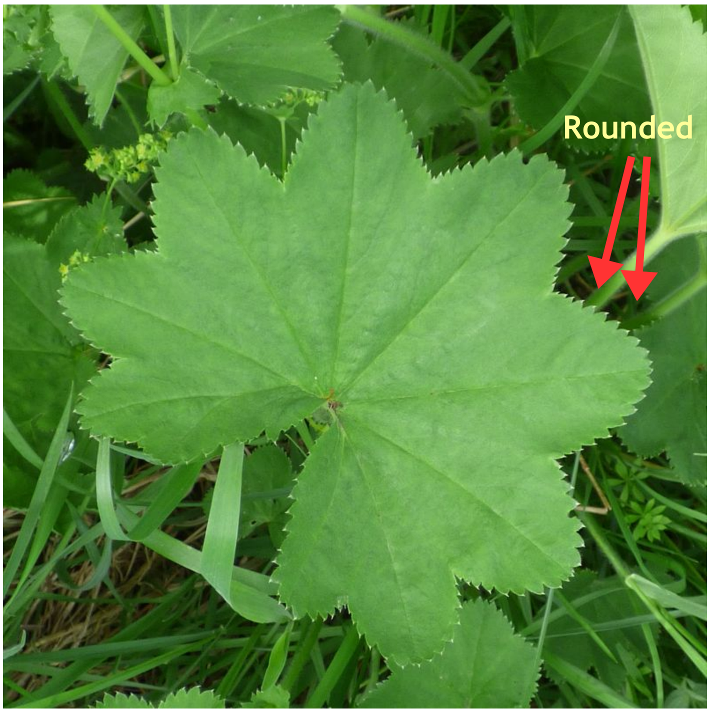
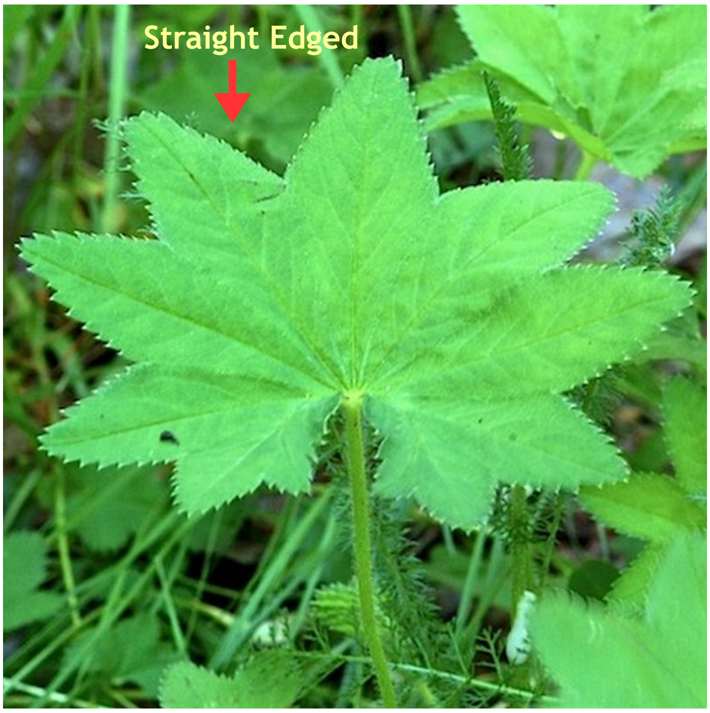
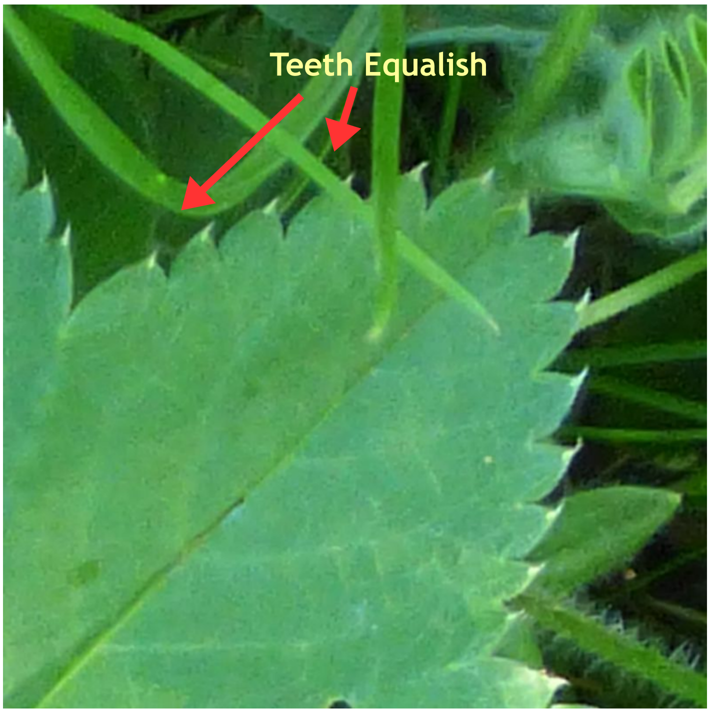
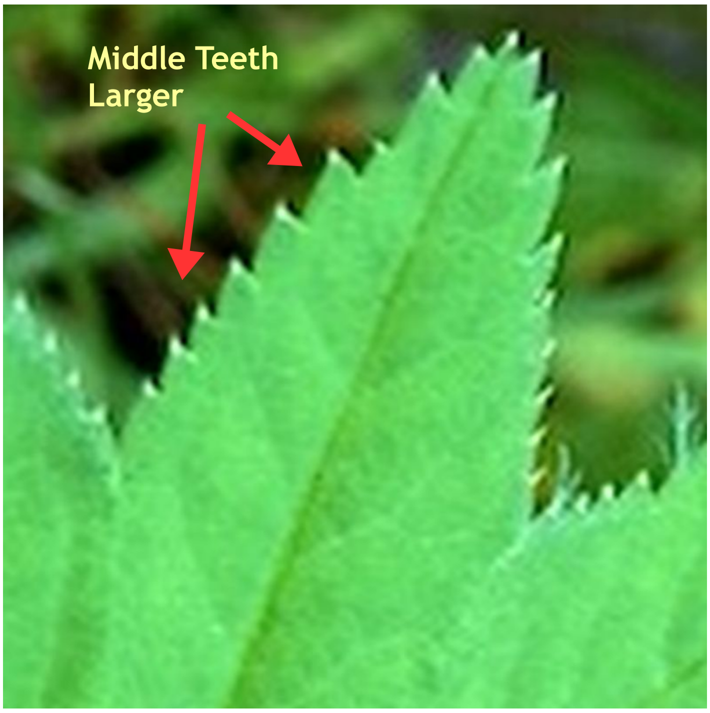
Leaf-lobes usually 5, their gaps with toothless region at base, stems rarely >=5cm - > A. minima (**Least L. M.**) WebPic	Leaf-lobes (5)7-9, their gaps toothed to base; stems usually >5cm -> 10
	

10.	
Stems and leaf-stems tinged wine-red at bases; where stem joins leaf open (>=45 deg) -> A. filicaulis ssp. vestita (**Hairy L.M.**)	Stems and leaf-stems brownish; where stem joins leaf narrow (<30°) to closed -> A. glaucescens (**Silky L.M.**) WebPic
	
	PHOTO of brown tinge

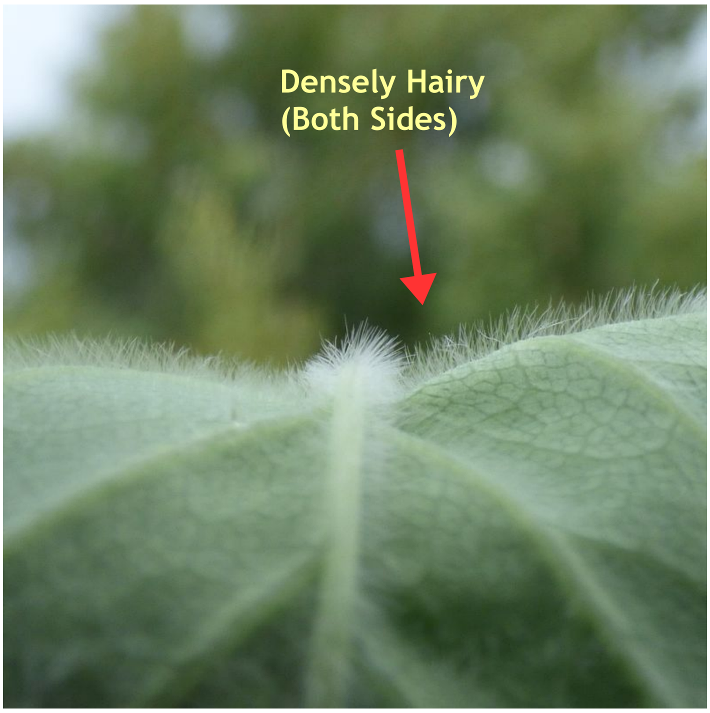
11. Leaf Hairiness

Leaf uppersides hairless (in folds maybe very sparse hairs) -> 12	Leaf uppersides hairy (maybe only in folds) -> 13 (this pic of A. mollis)
	

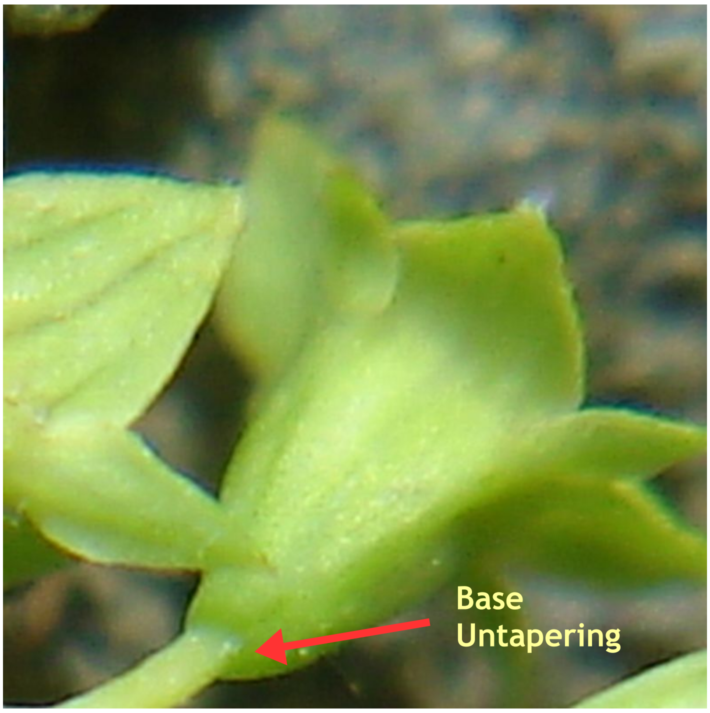
12. Leaf Lobes

Leaf-lobe sides rounded, with equalish teeth -> A. xanthochlora (**Intermediate/Pale L.M.**)	Leaf-lobe sides straightish (then rounded to flattish end), teeth in middle of each side larger than others -> A. acutiloba (**Starry L.M.**) WebPic
	
	

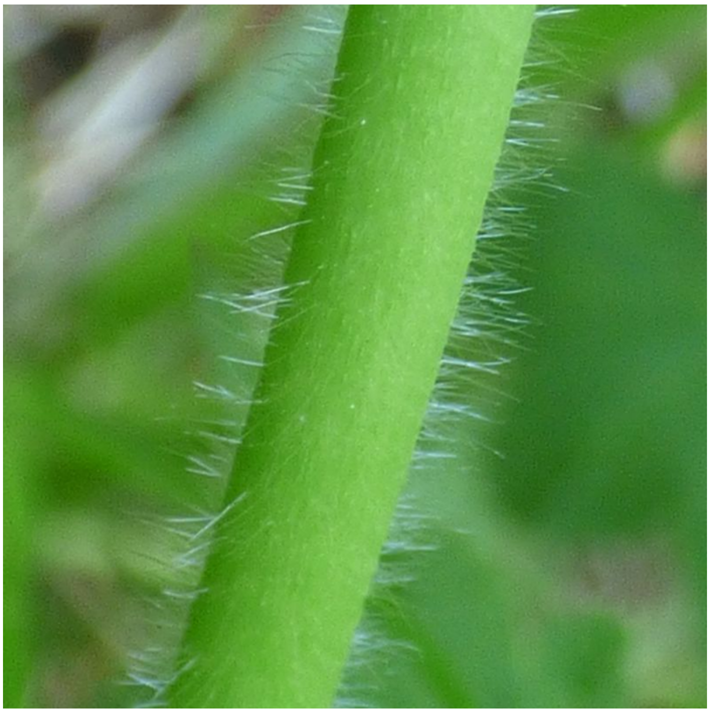
13. Leaf Hairiness

Leaf both sides densely hairy -> **14**	Leaf uppersides rather sparsely hairy and usually confined to folds (or frequent only there) -> **16**
	PHOTO Sparse hairs in folds

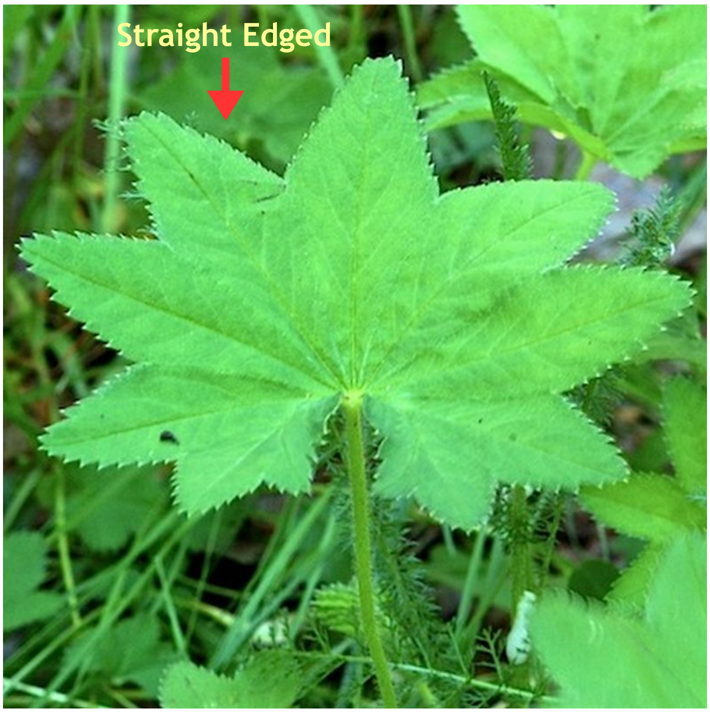
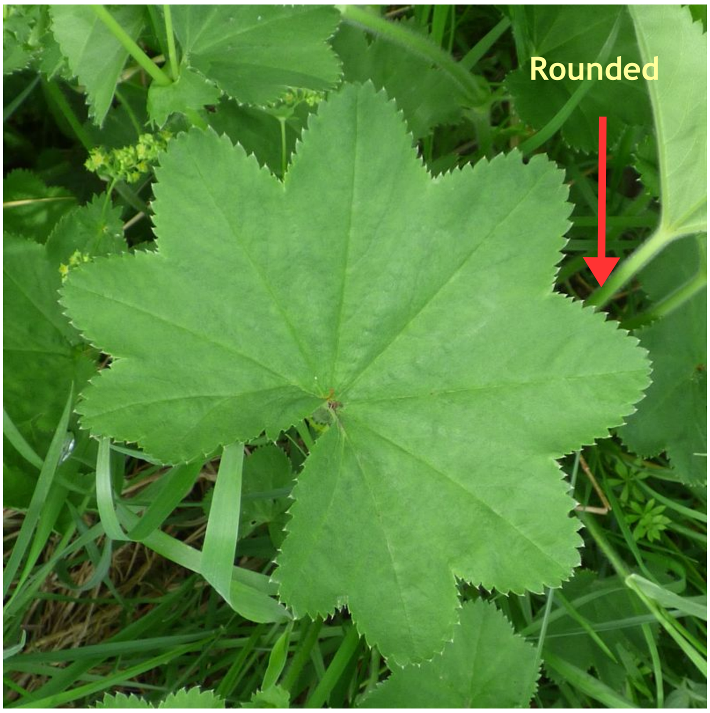
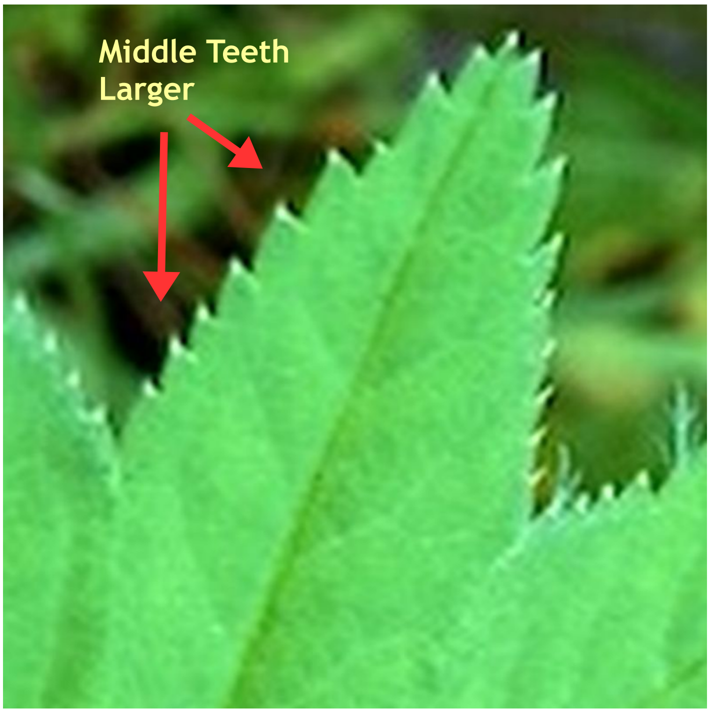
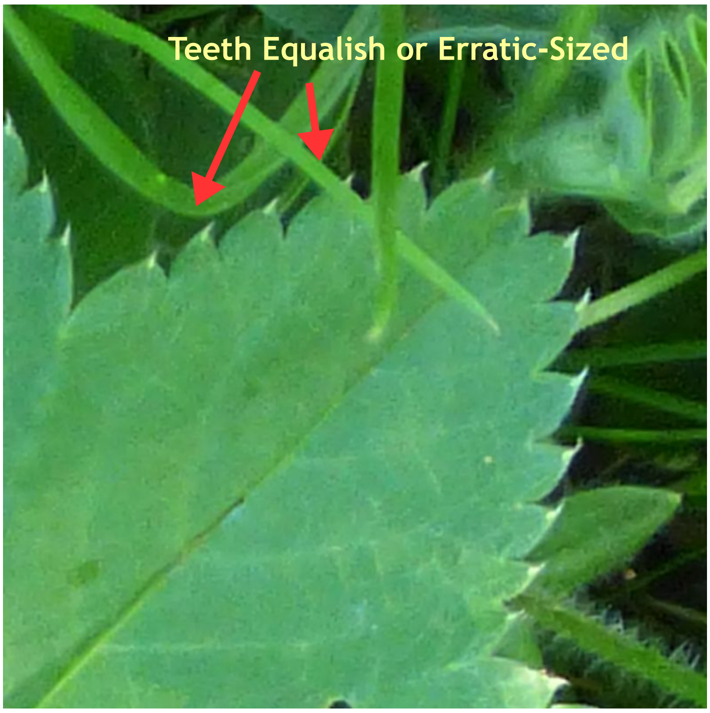
14. Hypanthium Base

Base of flower tapering; stem-hairs mostly (up-)projecting -> A. micans (**Shining L.M.**)	Base of flower untapered at base; stem-hairs mostly (down-)projecting -> **15**
PHOTO As right pic but tapering	

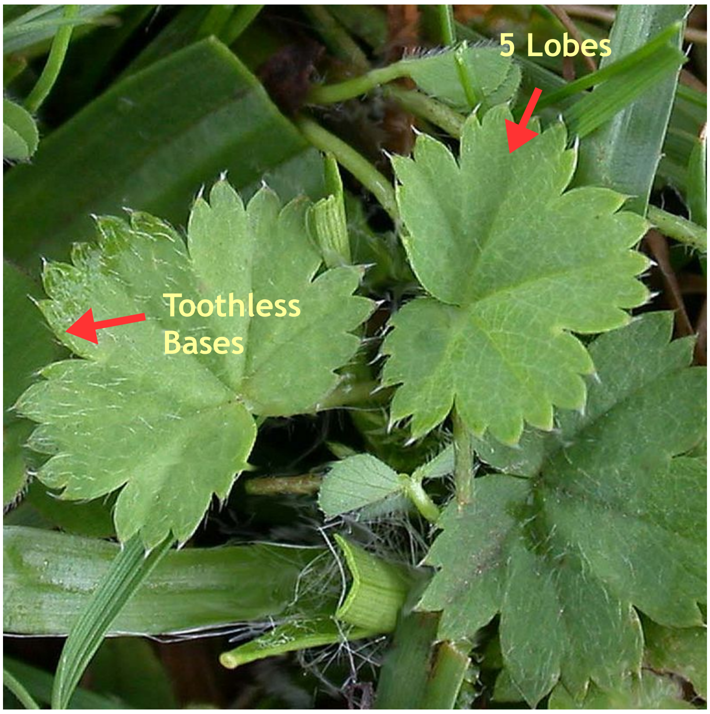
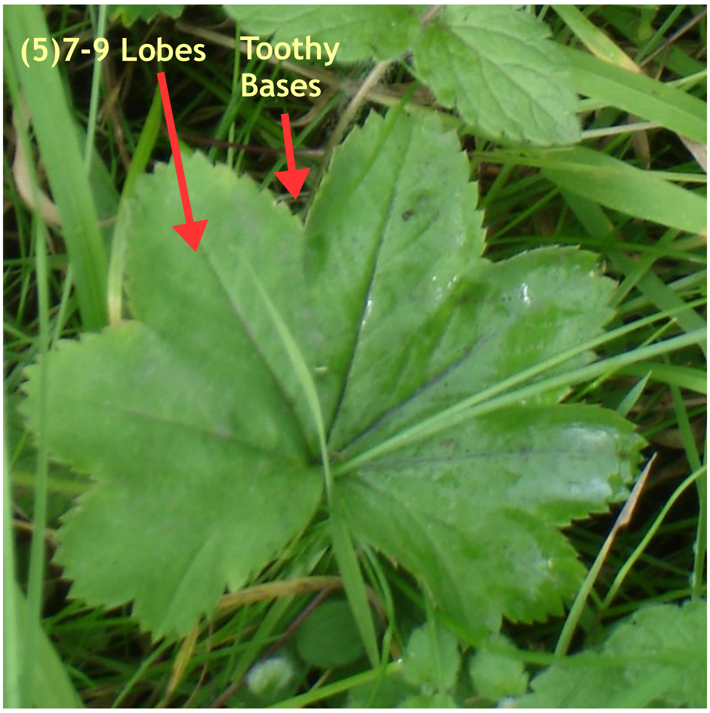
15. Flower-Size, Stem Hairs

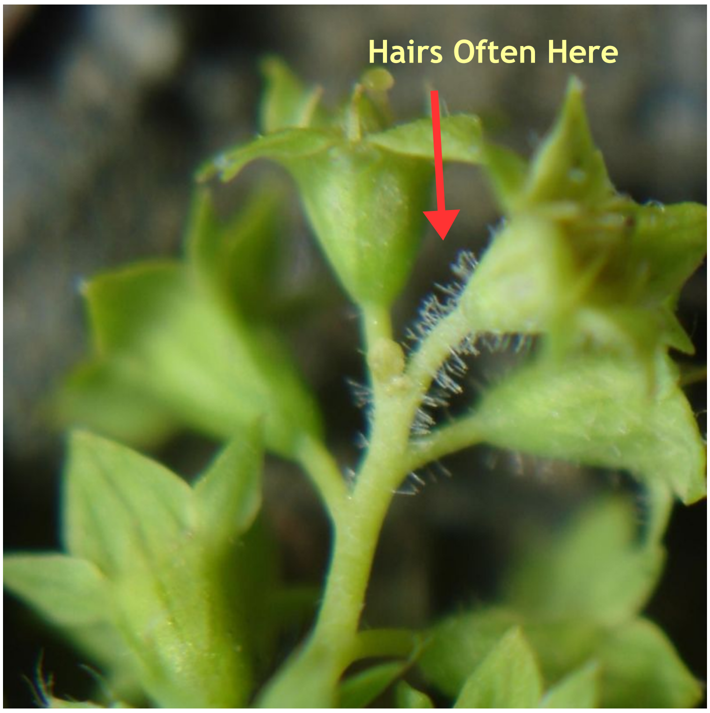
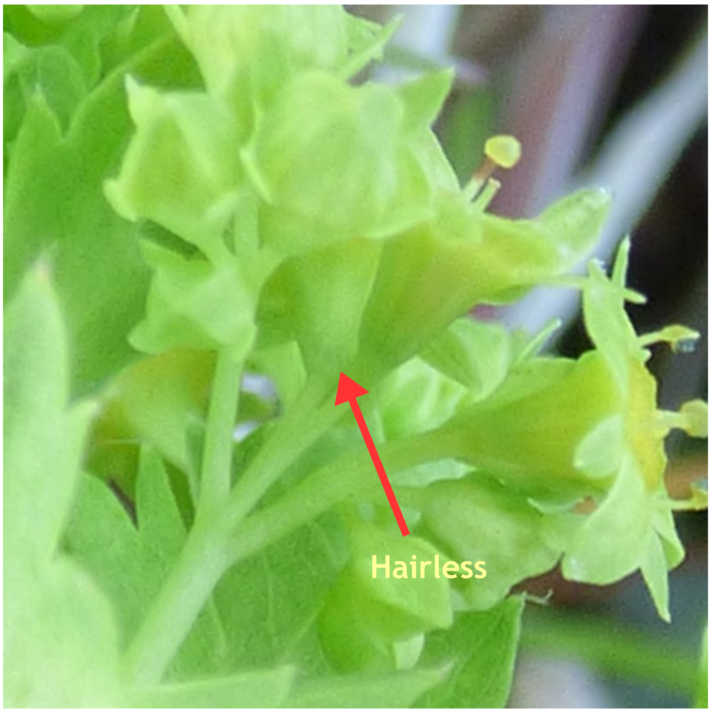
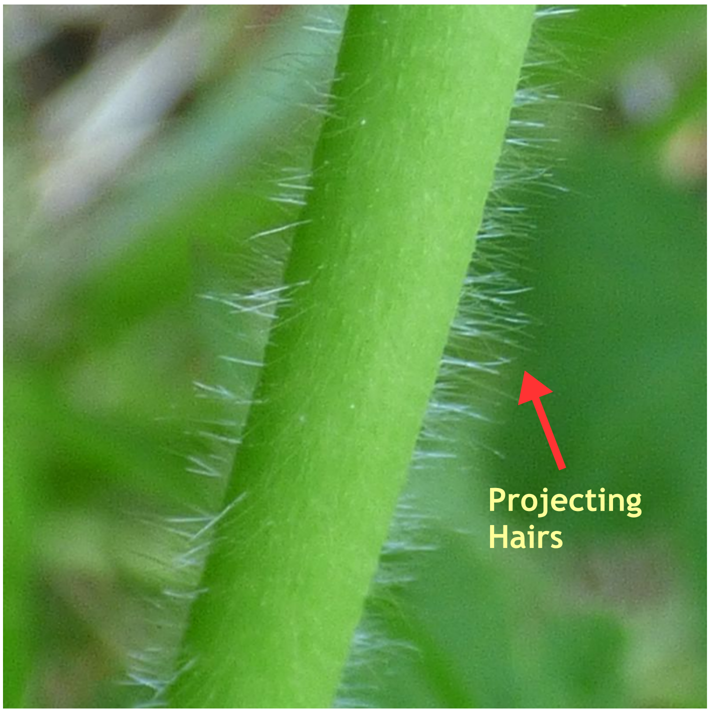
Flowers mostly >2.5mm across; stems and leaf-stems with projecting hairs -> A. monticola (**Velvet L.M.**)	Flowers mostly <2.5mm across; stems and leaf-stems with many curled-down hairs -> A. tytthantha (**Crimean L.M.**)
	PHOTO Curled-down hairs

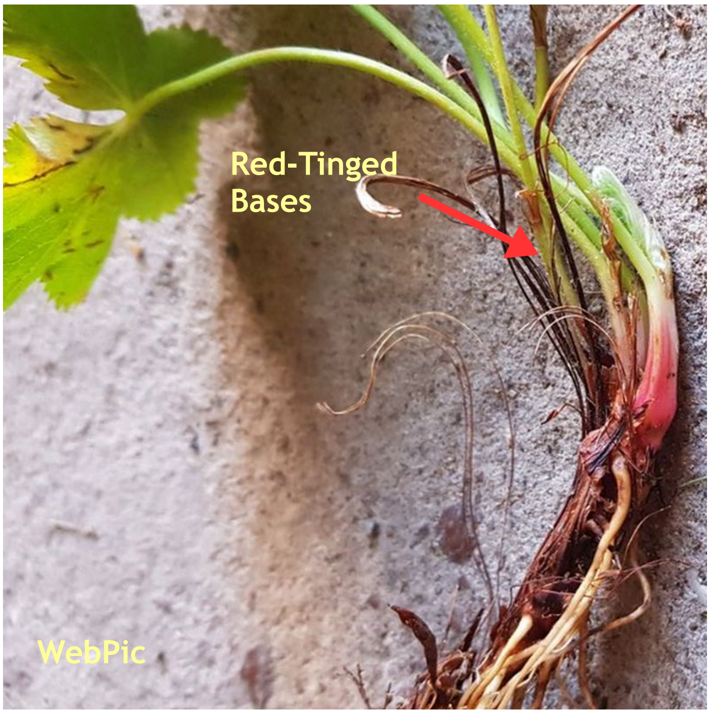
16. Leaf Sides

Leaf-lobe sides straightish (then rounded to flattish end), teeth in middle of each side larger than others -> A. acutiloba (**Starry L.M.**) WebPic	Leaf-lobes rounded, with teeth equal or else unequal with the large ones not confined to the middle of each side -> 17
	
	

17. Lobe Count

Leaf-lobes usually 5, their gaps with toothless region at base, stems rarely >=5cm - > A. minima (**Least L. M.**) WebPic	Leaf-lobes (5)7-9, their gaps toothed to base; stems usually >5cm -> **18**
	

18.	
Bases to flowers often with some hairs; stems and leaf-stems with projecting hairs, stems tinged red at bases -> A. filicaulis ssp. filicaulis (**Slender L.M.**)	Bases to flowers hairless; stems and leaf-stems usually with some curled-down hairs, stems brownish at base -> A. subcrenata (**Large-Toothed L.M.**)
	
	PHOTO Curled-Down Hairs

	PHOTO Brown Stem Bases

Info

Updated : 2019-11-17 – please check you have the latest version!

Contact : David Merrick – facebook.com/meteorquake

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